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Hongkong, 6th January, 1909.

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The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, JANUARY 6TH, 1909.

We take for what it may be worth the statement in the Chinese newspapers that YUAN SHIH-KAI has been relieved against his will of the great and responsible office he has recently been filling in the State. Were it not that the Peking correspondent of "The Times" has evidently corroborated that view we would have hesitated to unreservedly accept the statement. It will be recalled that when the present arrangements were made for the succession to the Throne it was reported that YUAN SHIH-KAI had applied for sick leave, and it was generally assumed, by those unaware of the condition of the statesman's health, that it was merely a diplomatic excuse to be relieved of a service which he recognised would be distasteful to him. In other words, it was represented that the new regime would be reactionary, and that service as an adviser to the Throne would be therefore impossible for a man of YUAN SHIH-KAI's enlightened and progressive ideas. We learn, however, that as a matter of fact, YUAN SHIH-KAI was genuinely ill at the time, and has ever since been a martyr to gout. In the Imperial Edict relieving His Excellency of the office he holds, it is announced that he is physically unable to attend to his duties, and the decision to relieve him of his office is set down in the Edict as a mark of Imperial favour. There are other plausible

reasons for hesitating to accept the view that he has been pushed aside for political reasons. YUAN SHIH-KAI is known to have advocated the selection of the new Emperor, and we may be sure that on that account he enjoys the favour of the Regent. Dr. Morrison in his estimate of the prospects under the new regime wrote: "The fact that the new Regent, Prince CHUN, an amiable, intelligent Prince, who has travelled in Europe, will be for the next twelve years virtually Emperor cannot weaken the position of YUAN SHIH-KAI and those whose influence makes for progress, provided that he keeps independent of female influence." To what extent this last condition has been fulfilled we have no knowledge, but the fact that the Palace has been purged of the baneful influence of the eunuchs, combined with the many other evidences of enlightened views already given by the Regent surely tend to show that he is not in sympathy with the reactionary school. When we bear in mind what a tower of strength YUAN SHIH-KAI has proved in the recent crisis, it is inconceivable that at the present time the Regent would dismiss from office a statesman who in recent years has been regarded as the most powerful man in China and the real ruler of the Empire. Serious physical disability alone might reasonably be regarded the only reason for the retirement. If it were otherwise, and YUAN SHIH-KAI were to exhibit any sign of resentment, there would be an end to the tranquillity which has happily prevailed throughout a time of considerable apprehension. YUAN SHIH-KAI is a Chinese, and the fact that Na Tung a Manchur, has been appointed to fill the vacancy created by YUAN SHIH-KAI's retirement from the Grand Council would in itself add to the outburst of indignation which a peremptory dismissal would be likely to evoke. It has to be remembered that YUAN SHIH-KAI's protégés are filling many, if not most, of the highest positions in the provinces, and the retired statesman therefore wields an influence in the land which might well justify ominous forebodings if his retirement means an attempt to exclude his influence from the councils of the Empire.

What gives countenance, however, to the view that YUAN SHIH-KAI has fallen the victim of intrigue on the part of the reactionaries is that the retirement has not been preceded by the usual constant applications for "sick leave." Only one such application has been heard of, and that two months ago, and it is, to say the least, unusual to issue an Imperial Edict on the subject if only temporary sick leave is intended. No hope is expressed in the Edict that the statesman who has been doing so much for the material progress of the Empire might soon recover his health and return to the high office he now vacates. The retirement bears the stamp of finality, and it is not without some show of reason that Europe is apprehensive. It is well to note in this connexion that there is greater faith abroad in YUAN SHIH-KAI's influence and power in the land than exists among the Chinese. Since a Manchur, TIEH LIANG, obtained the control of the army which Yuan created, the influence of the ex-Viceroy of Chili is considered to have been weakened considerably. The new Grand Councillor has filled many high offices in the State, including that of President of the Board of Foreign Affairs, in 1908. Among the other appointments he has held are those of Grand Secretary, General Commander of Gendarmerie, President of the Board of Revenue, and President of the Board of Interior. He is a member of the Government Council as well as of the Revenue Council. Only once has he travelled beyond the confines of the Empire, and that was in 1901 when he proceeded to Japan as a special ambassador. The selection of LIANG TUN-YEN to succeed YUAN as President of the Board of Foreign Affairs is especially acceptable to the Chinese in this part of the Empire, for His Excellency is a native of Kwangtung. Though young for such a position as statesman count in China it is probable that the appointment gives great satisfaction to the Legations. For several years the new President was CHANG CHIH-TUNG's interpreter, and in 1907 he was selected to represent China at Washington, but did not proceed. He remained to become Junior Vice-President of the Board of Foreign Affairs, and is now promoted to the presidency. The retirement or dismissal of YUAN SHIH-KAI is certainly disturbing, but until the factors which determined the step are better known it is unprofitable to indulge in speculations as to what will happen.

H.M.S. Flora is to be docked for repairs.

Telegraphic news from Peking yesterday reports that Yuan Shih-Kai left for his home in the province of Honan.

The stock was completely frozen in on 29th ult.

The German Mail of the 2nd December was delivered in London on the 29th December 1908.

By a printer's error, the date of the most destructive earthquake which has occurred at Tokyo was given in our leading article yesterday as 1903, instead of 1703.

[Booking of seats for the Philharmonic Concert on 8th instant is briskly proceeding at the Robinson Piano Co. Lovers of music who have not yet taken tickets should lose no time in doing so, as there will only be one performance.

Soiled paper currency, retired from circulation on accounts of its condition, representing a value of three million pesos, was burnt at Manila a few days ago in presence of the Governor-General, the insular treasurer, and the insular auditor.

Sir Alexander Hosié, C.M.G., the British Commercial Attaché, has been gazetted as Consul-General at Yokohama in succession to Mr. Hopkins, who has retired, but will probably be some time before Sir Alexander takes over the duties of the Consulate.

Mr. Miles W. Lamson, of the Foreign Office, who came out as Secretary to H.R.H. Prince Arthur of Connaught's Special Mission to invest the Emperor of Japan with the Order of the Garter, has now returned to Japan to assume the position of Second Secretary to the British Embassy.

A labour contractor, named Cobb, in the employ of the Philippine Railway Co., who was taking 150 native labourers from Cuyo to Iloilo, was adrift on the high seas last month for twelve days. A storm carried the lorches out of their course. Food ran out and when at last the lorches made port the men were in a famished condition.

For selling poison without being a duly registered chemist Kwan Tye, of 114 Queen's Road Central, was at the Magistracy yesterday fined \$50. He was also fined \$25 for selling the same without having the word "poison" printed thereon in accordance with the conditions laid down by the Ordinances.

The new Portuguese newspaper Vida Nova ("New Life") which has made its appearance in Macao promises to meet with great acceptance among the Portuguese community in Hongkong as well as in Macao. The articles in the first number are well written and give expression to views concerning the colony which are widely entertained. Macao has now two newspapers after being without any for quite a long time.

Heavy fines were imposed by Mr. Wood at the Magistracy yesterday on five men who were charged with being in unlawful possession of dynamite. The police, suspecting that the defendants who reside at Cheung Sha Wan were using the explosive for fishing, made a raid on the house and found two pounds of dynamite and a quantity of fuses. One defendant was fined \$100, three were fined \$75, and the fifth \$50. They were all members of one family.

Another of the series of organ recitals arranged for the first Tuesday of the month was given yesterday afternoon by Mr. Denman Fuller at St John's Cathedral. The programme consisted of five organ solos and two vocal items by Mrs. Bellillo, which were much appreciated, particularly "With verdure clad" which seemed more adapted to her voice. The programme was as under:—
1.—Prelude and Fugue in G Major... Bach
2.—Pastorale... Wely
3.—Aria "Angels, ever bright and fair" Handel
Mrs. Bellillo.
4.—Basso Ostinato... Arensky
5.—"To the Sea" and "Starlight" MacDowell.
6.—Aria "With verdure clad" Haydn.
Mrs. Bellillo.
7.—Imperial March... Edward Elgar.

RAILWAY STOCK DESTROYED.

The fire at Hunghom on Monday afternoon was very disastrous, the damage to the Kowloon Canton Railway gear amounting to over \$10,000. Matchboxes, tools, sleepers, etc., were destroyed, and it will take no little time and money to repair the damage done.

INDIA'S TEA-BORNE TRADE.

As a result of the evil effects of a deficient season of agricultural crops in 1907, the import trade for the half year ended September last recorded 543 crore Rupees and exports showed a falling off of 24 crores 85 lakhs, being equivalent to 7.71 and 25.46 per cent. respectively.

AN "AMBASSADOR OF COMMERCE" IN CHINA.

A Berlin despatch to a London contemporary says:—German industrial and shipping circles are delighted at the success which has attended the efforts put forth by the German Minister to China, Count Rex, to assist them in securing important orders for German ironworks. It is announced that the German Steel Union has secured an order to supply 75,000 tons of steel rails and other railway building material to be used on the so-called German section of the Tientsin and Peking Railway, and also that the United Augsburg and Nuremberg Machine Works will build the great bridge across the Hoang-Ho. Lastly, a stipulation in the contracts says that all this material to be sent out from Germany to China shall be carried exclusively in German vessels. Owing to the strong support given to the German firms by the German Minister in China they succeeded in beating the other foreign firms, who were competing. Only a few years ago it was understood in the Embassies and Legations of the European capitals that no Ambassador or Minister could devote special attention to developing the trade of his own country with the country to which he was accredited.

TELEGRAMS.

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UNPRECEDENTED EVENT IN KOREAN HISTORY.

TOYO, January 5th.

The Korean Emperor has announced his intention to visit Fusan and other places.

His Majesty will be accompanied by Prince Ito, the Resident.

This imperial journey will constitute an unprecedented event in Korean history.

TRAGEDY AT AMOY.

AMOY, January 5th.

Mr. C. J. Farrow, manager of the China Mutual Insurance Company at this port, shot himself at 2.30 this afternoon.

[Mr. Farrow was one of the most successful agents of the company and was very popular in Amoy where he has been for several years. He was about 38 years of age and is survived by a widow.]

[REUTERS'S SERVICE TO THE "HONGKONG DAILY PRESS."]

THE GREAT CALAMITY IN ITALY.

HALF THE ENGLISH COLONY OF MESSINA KILLED.

LONDON, January 4th.

The Bishop of Gibraltar, who is visiting Messina, reports that half the English Colony has perished in the great earthquake disaster.

AN EXAGGERATION CORRECTED.

LONDON, January 4th.

A telegram to the Admiralty denies that the Straits of Messina are unrecognisable and states that the topography is unaltered.

RELIEF FUNDS IN AMERICA.

LONDON, January 5th.

The American Red Cross Society has telegraphed to Rome \$490,000 gold towards the relief of sufferers by the earthquake disaster.

Congress voted an extra \$800,000 to cover the cost of the supplies already sent in the two storehouses intended for the Battleship Fleet.

AUSTRIA AND SERBIA.

REPORTED DEMAND FOR AN APOLOGY.

LONDON, January 5th.

The "Wiener Zeitung" states that the Austrian Minister at Belgrade has been instructed to demand an apology for the speech made by the Serbian Minister in the Skupshchina. Failure to tender the apology will result in a rupture.

YUAN SHIH-KAI'S DOWNFALL.

LONDON, January 4th.

The newspapers regard Yuan Shih-Kai's fall as disturbing and ominous. "The Times" anticipates serious consequences and recalls Yuan's influence in saving the besieged Legations at the time of the Boxer outbreak.

FIRES IN BOMBAY.

A godown containing over 50,000 bags of sugar was burnt down the other day entailing a loss of eight lakhs of rupees. The weaving and spinning departments of the New Islam Mills were entirely destroyed by fire. The damage is estimated at over two lakhs of rupees.

COTTON TRADE DEPRESSION.

A Manchester correspondent writing a month ago said:—There is a talk this week that cotton spinning being so bad a meeting will be held early in the new year to consider the state of trade, and whether it will be desirable to run short time for a stated period. Probably local district meetings will be held to consider the pressing question—undoubtedly stocks of yarn are showing themselves, and the margin between cotton and twist is very narrow. Then the cloth trade is so depressed that there is less loss on stopping than in working. The failure is officially announced of Mr. John Whitaker, cotton manufacturer, Bolton, Blackburn, who has an extensive weaving shed. The liabilities are considerable. Great regret is expressed at Mr. Whitaker not being able to overcome his financial difficulties. He is a county magistrate, a director of the Blackburn Chamber of Commerce, and an alderman of the County Council.

SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held yesterday at the Board Room. Mr. R. O. Hutcheson presided, and there were present Hon. Mr. W. Chatham, C.M.G., Colonel Bedford, Hon. Mr. Irving, Hon. Mr. E. A. Horwett, Mr. A. Shelton Hooper, Mr. H. Humphreys, Mr. Lau Chu Pak, Dr. Pearse (Medical Officer of Health), and Mr. A. Gibson (Secretary).

THE CONSERVANCY CONTRACTOR.
Mr. Hooper said that, as the complaints against the conservancy contractor in the orders of the day for the last meeting had been taken confidentially as it was suggested that some one would be criminally implicated, he moved that the minutes be made public.

Mr. HUMPHREYS seconded, and the resolution was agreed to.

The minute was to the effect that Mr. Hooper moved that the contractor be fined \$100 and be told that his carrying out of the contract would be carefully watched until the end of the year and that he would be fined \$25 for each breach of the provisions in his contract.

Mr. LAU CHU PAK seconded, and the resolution was agreed to.

THE SPITTING NUISANCE.

The following letter was received from the Colonial Secretary:—

Sir,—With reference to your letter No. 9773/07 of 28th January last, I am directed to transmit for the information of the Board the enclosed copy of a minute by His Excellency the Governor dated 21st instant.

I am to suggest that the Sanitary Board should invite the public to provide spittoons and to issue notices in Chinese on the subject—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
F. H. MAX.

His Excellency's minute was as follows:—
There is no reason why steps should not be taken without further delay in the matter of the spitting nuisance.

(a) I think it might be suggested to occupants of flats, etc., that they should provide spittoons in the halls, passages and stairways. They should be of metal, and either fixtures containing sand, etc., or chained to fixtures so as not to be stolen. Government Offices, Post Office, etc., should be so provided at once.

(b) The Registrar-General should instruct the lecturers on hygiene and sanitation to point out the danger to health caused by pulverised nasal and pectoral excreta being inhaled, and how it has been conclusively proved that pulmonary diseases are thus propagated. Also that meat and other eatables exposed for sale are thus infected; that the object aimed at is that expectorators should use the drains and gutters, and not the pavements.

(c) Notices should be posted. They should (at first, at any rate) be worded in a conciliatory way something like the following:—

"Please do not spit (or eject matter from the nose) on the pavement, but, in a house, use the spittoons provided, and, when in a street, use the drains or side gutters. The habit of spitting when the matter is not speedily removed has been proved to cause diseases of the lungs which are so prevalent in Hongkong."

Mr. SHELTON HOOPER moved—I quite agree with the minute of His Excellency the Governor, which embodies the suggestions made at the meeting of the Sanitary Board on 10th November last. Effect should be given to it at once.

Mr. LAU CHU PAK—I have no objection to issuing notices advising people not to spit in public places, but I am not in favour of any legislation in the matter.

Mr. HOOPER moved that the Sanitary Department be instructed to give effect to the letter of the Colonial Secretary covering His Excellency's letter.

Hon. Mr. HEWETT seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

It was decided that the papers be re-circulated.

CLOSING OF A CHINESE CEMETERY.
At a meeting of the Board, held on September 15th last, it was agreed that the use of the Cheungshawan cemetery as a plague cemetery should be given up.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH moved—The bodies left to the Department for burial should, I think, be buried at Kailungwan and Matsauw cemeteries. If this is decided on it will be necessary to prepare sites for such burials. During the height of the plague season it may be necessary to have trenches dug, instead of individual graves. This was done at Cheungshawan by a contractor.

This recommendation was adopted on the motion of the PRESIDENT, seconded by Mr. LAU CHU PAK.

MORTALITY STATISTICS.

The mortality statistics for the week ended 12th December calculated at a death rate per 1000 per annum of the total population was 23.8 as against 24.3 for the corresponding week of last year.

RAT RETURN.

The rat return for the week ended 19th December showed that in the whole Colony 1,252 rats were caught, of which three were found to be infected. In the week ended 26th December of the 1901 rats caught, only one was found to be infected.

A DINGIBLE TORPEDO.

Two Hungarians, Herr Christian Berger and Dr. Eugen Knipathy, a professor at the Budapest Polytechnic, have (says a Vienna correspondent) completed an interesting invention with respect to dirigible torpedoes, and Professor Knipathy recently gave a demonstration of the invention. The torpedo contains machinery by which its course may be directed towards an enemy's ship and automatically altered when the vessel changes its course. In the demonstration by the inventor wireless telegraphy was employed, and the model used altered its direction left or right, according to the will of the operator.

Local Christian Scientists will be interested to learn that, according to an American telegram to the Manila papers, "it is authoritatively denied that Mrs. Mary Baker Eddy, the leader of the Christian Science movement is seriously ill."

SUPREME COURT.

Tuesday, January 5th.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE).

THE PEAK MURDER.

Kwok Leung, Li Shok Chung and Hung Hol were indicted on the charge of killing and murdering one Pa Tung, at the Peak on October 22nd of last year. Prisoners denied the charge and the following jury was empanelled:—T. P. Hall (foreman), H. J. van der Bosch, J. P. Ulders, D. A. Purves, H. Reeves, H. E. Craddock and H. A. Lamart.

The Hon. Mr. W. Rees Davies, K.C., Attorney-General, who was instructed by Mr. Danys, Jr., from the office of the Crown Solicitor, appeared for the Crown, the prisoners being defended by Mr. H. C. Calhoun, who was instructed by Mr. R. D. Atkinson (of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon).

The Attorney-General stated that the three prisoners were standing their trial on a charge of wilful murder committed on 22nd October last year. The first and second prisoners were chair coolies in the employ of Mr. Holworthy, and the third, who was in the employ of Mr. Gresson, was also a chair coolie. Apparently, from the evidence available, the murder was the outcome of some trivial quarrel which had taken place between the deceased, who was a Punti, and a Hoklo. The three prisoners were Hoklos. The story of the dispute in the first place would be told by a man named Woo Kain, a Punti who went up to the Peak with the deceased man that day. Another man who was in the tram with them appeared to have put his foot on the jacket of the deceased, and some trumpery dispute, followed. When the three men got out at the top tram station it appeared that the stranger challenged the deceased to fight. All three then walked away in the direction of the Peak Club. At a certain spot which is described as Jardine's Junction, the man Woo Kiu would tell the Court that he saw some ten or more men, all Hoklos, running up to where he was standing with the deceased and the stranger. He saw them strike blows at the deceased, but appears to have run away immediately. The story would then be taken up by Ku Yun, who says he met the deceased at Jardine's Junction at 11.45 a.m. and that he had a talk with him. He would say that while they were speaking the second defendant approached and stepped deliberately on the foot of the deceased. The two men then had a dispute, and the second defendant ran up the steps to Gresson's coolie house, called out, and some 6 or 7 coolies came from the house with bamboos, amongst the number being the third prisoner. Some of the coolies he said, poked the deceased with the poles, and some struck him. The witness got frightened and ran to Mt. Gough Police Station to inform the police. On his return he found the deceased, his friend, dead. Another witness, Wa Ping, would say that he saw the deceased being chased by the first and second accused. The first accused struck him with a bamboo pole, and when he fell the second prisoner kicked him. After administering these blows, he said, the two defendants ran back in the direction from which they had come. Shortly after the murder this witness gave information to the police, and pointed out the first prisoner. The doctor would say that death was due to spinal haemorrhage as a result of the blows on the back and the neck. Another witness would speak definitely as to the third accused being the man who struck the last, and this witness subsequently identified him at the Central Police Station from a number of other men. On the other hand he stated emphatically that the first and second accused were not there. This was undoubtedly a discrepancy of a material character in the evidence, and the only suggestion the Attorney-General could make was that the witnesses must have been speaking about two distinct assaults. The facts, so far as they went, were simple, but the jurors would see from the depositions that there would be some difficulty in sifting the whole truth.

The case stands part heard.

TRADE UNIONS AND INDUSTRIAL PEACE.

Sir Christopher Furness has not been long in putting into practical operation his scheme of co-partnership. After having surmounted the difficulty of persuading his employees "to agree to the new method of working," he was faced with the even more serious difficulty of the lack of orders. This he had got over by ordering, on behalf of a firm of shipowners with which he is connected, but largely at his own personal risk, a sufficient number of steamboats to keep the building yards busy for a twelvemonth. That is a courageous step to take, and ought to remove any lingering suspicion that any action of the workpeople may entertain with regard to the new departure. In making this announcement Sir Christopher Furness once more impressed upon the men whom he was addressing the supreme importance of industrial peace. It is a lesson which the trade unions have not yet sufficiently learned. Indeed, their very organisation makes it difficult for them to learn it, for the funds of the unions are derived from payments made by the workpeople largely as an insurance against labour disputes, and if there were never any disputes there would be no insurance premiums. We cannot therefore expect to see a disappearance of strikes and lock-outs until the trade union have reorganised themselves on a less combative basis. That this is possible there can be no question for already those unions which distribute benefits other than strike pay are reluctant to encourage a strike for fear of trenching upon their benefit funds. It is this side of trade unionism which needs to be further developed, and perhaps the most valuable part of the work done by Sir Christopher Furness is the way in which he has persuaded the unions concerned to abandon the right to strike in return for the concession of an influential position in the government of the co-partnership.

HOW TO BE BEAUTIFUL.—Keep your complexion, Mrs. Ellen's Crème Chantante, Lait Chantant and Special Skin Tonic and Poudre Chantante will enable you to do it. Her Specialties for the Skin are the study of a lifetime. A. S. Watson & Co. Ltd. Sole Agents.

LOCAL SPORT.

FOOTBALL.

The League Committee arranged six matches last week. All of them were completed and now the League table has a somewhat different aspect. The Engineers still lead, Buffs coming second with two matches in hand, while the R.G.A. are now third, the Y.M.C.A. having dropped from second place to fifth, having lost again to the Buffs. Lusitano have moved up one step and the R.A.M.C. have gone down one. The B.O.C. are still at bottom, but will not remain there, if they can keep up last Saturday's form.

The game between R.G.A. and R.E. on New Year's day was the best game played this season, resulting in a draw of two goals each. The R.G.A. on the day's play were the better team and should have managed to get through. The game was fast and exciting and the spectators enjoyed the exhibition of football. McCarty, Ormond, Coxon and Bairdmore were very prominent for the Engineers. Waters and Water were exceedingly good. The return League match between the two teams will be a hard game and it is up to the forwards of both teams to be in top form in the reply.

It was a great pity the Lusitano could not muster a full team against the R.G.A., but unexpected circumstances prevented several players from appearing, and the Lusitano decided to give the points to the R.G.A.

The Buffs v. Y.M.C.A. match resulted in an easy win for the Buffs by three goals. The Buffs are getting into fine form and are going to have a hard try to carry off the League trophy. On the other hand the Y.M.C.A. have had a very hard time lately. The forwards are not brilliant and the half backs are no better. The Y.M.C.A. did well at the beginning of the season, and perhaps we shall see them returning to form soon. For the Y.M.C.A. McCubbin has shown he is a sterling back. Wharton at half is a hard worker, but seems inclined to be rather selfish. Atkins in goal is very clever and cannot be blamed for the three goals lost on Saturday.

The Naval Yard beat R.A.M.C. by 2-0, but the play was of a very low standard.

The R.E. met the B.O.C. on Causeway Bay ground and could only manage to bag four goals. For the greater part of the game it looked as if the B.O.C. would make a draw of it. Their display was not brilliant but they repeatedly spoiled the tactics of the Engineers, and made them work hard for a win. The Engineers' display was ragged indeed.

The League committee met at the Y.M.C.A. rooms on Monday night and arranged this week's programme as follows:—

Causeway Bay—R.A.M.C. v. B.O.C. at 4 p.m. Referee, Mr. R. H. Bunyard.

Naval Ground—R.E. v. Naval Yard: at 2.30 p.m. Referee, Capt. Edwards.

Military Ground—R.G.A. v. Y.M.C.A. at 2.30 p.m. Referee, Sgt. Walsh; and Buffs v. Lusitano at 4 p.m. Referee, Sapper Heigh.

The Hongkong Club gave notice of a meeting to be held at 5.30 p.m. Monday evening to discuss the Shield competition, and I understand the Secretary of the League postponed the League meeting in order to allow the League clubs to attend the Shield meeting. All the League clubs were represented, and three Naval representatives also turned up. The rules of the competition allow the Hongkong Club three representatives—the treasurer, captain and secretary. The Secretary appeared, but none of the others attended. The representatives present waited till after six, but had to leave without accomplishing anything. The League are a strong body and will not be treated in such an offhand manner. Such conduct certainly militates against the best interests of the Shield competition, and it is not surprising to learn that the League members felt rather sore at the inconsiderate way they were treated. An explanation from the Treasurer of the Club might help matters somewhat. If the officials of the Shield competition find the work too much for them they might consider the advisability of handing the working over to the League committee.

REFeree.

CRICKET.

The last fortnight has been productive of more and probably better cricket than any previous fortnight in the annals of local cricket. The Club ground has been in use nearly every day and the leading players have availed themselves of the opportunity afforded. The best match of the bunch was between the Hongkong Club and the United Services and resulted in an even draw. Three centuries were registered, Baginall putting up 109 before beaten, his score including several big hits over the fence and a number of hard drives to the boundary. Pearce on the first day had retired with a damaged hand, but pluckily returned on Saturday, and notwithstanding the bandages, succeeded in putting up a fine score of 119 and helped his skipper to carry the total from 39 to 284 before a separation was effected. Dick Hancock's score of 177 was a grand performance and a treat for the onlookers who numbered not a few. His strokes were all round the wicket in his usual attractive style. As must be expected, the bowling analysis was not good on either side, Stevens being best for the Club with three wickets for 37 and Baird and Garnett sharing honours for the Services with five for 73 and four for 59 respectively.

Considering the number of first class players in the colony just now, it is a pity we cannot have another try for the Ashes. In fact one almost feels tempted to invite the Kangaroos to call in on their way back to the antipodes.

League cricket provided two matches, Kowloon v. Civil Service and Telegraphs v. Royal Engineers. In the former the Civil Service won

by four wickets for 99 against 96 all out. Kowloon who went to the wickets first opened well. Lightfoot having regained some of his old form, and had 80 for three wickets when a root seemed to set in. Read, who was bowling in good form, secured five wickets very cheaply, the other successful bowlers being Brett and Hutchison. The winning team batted confidently from the start, Phillips, Sutherland, Witche, Raven and Hutchison securing the necessary runs. As was anticipated, the Telegraphs beat the R.E.s, small scoring being the feature of the game, in marked contrast to the match on the Club ground.

The League fixtures for next Saturday are all interesting and should provide some good cricket. The Hongkong Club "B" team meet Craigengowers, R.G.A. meet Kowloon and the R.E.s the Civil Service.

Although the "B" team are much the stronger side, it is just possible that Craigengowers will make a good show against them. They are very keen and usually score well against weak bowling, and if the "B" team have a weak point, it is in their bowling.

R.G.A. should just about win against Kowloon, four of their players having done well during the last fortnight on the Club ground.

Civil Service should beat the R.E.s on their own ground. The last match between these teams resulted in a win for the Civils by three minutes and several wickets. But no one recognises the uncertainty of the game more than

THE PANAMA "SCANDAL."

MR. ROOSEVELT DESCRIBES THE CHARGES AS INFAMOUS.

The Panama Canal has produced several scandals and promises to produce at least the commencement of another one. The *Indianapolis News* of which Mr. Delavan Smith is the editor, made the assertion recently that of the \$8,000,000 presumably paid to France for the French rights in the isthmus \$5,600,000 really went to an American syndicate, who only paid \$2,400,000 for the rights.

Mr. Charles P. Taft, the brother of President Taft, and his manager in the recent Presidential campaign, Douglas Robinson, brother-in-law of President Roosevelt, and others were named as having profited by this transaction.

These well known men deny the truth of the charges, and threaten to bring law suits against the *Indianapolis News* and some New York papers which associated themselves with the charges, though it is true that these accusations were made interrogatively in print.

President Roosevelt wrote a strong letter to a correspondent describing it as "infamous and abominable" for any American paper to make the suggestion that American citizens profited by the deal. He asserts positively that the \$8,000,000 went direct to the French Government, and he denies any knowledge of the subsequent distribution of it.

When the House of Representatives met Mr. Henry T. Rainey, of Illinois, a Democrat, promptly moved a resolution calling for an investigation into the purchase of the French rights in the canal, and the destination of the purchase money. There was little debate on it, and it was adopted, both sides apparently being desirous to test the matter.

MR. BALFOUR'S ART OF LIFE.

THE PLEASURES OF HARD WORK.

Mr. Balfour, as president, delivered a suggestive speech to the Labour Copartnership Association at a meeting at Church House recently, over which Mr. Shackleton, M.P., presided, and to which Mr. Asquith sent his wishes for success.

Copartnership, said Mr. Balfour, had produced happy results. Their ideal was complete partnership—that all those who carried on the work should be associated as partners in all that the work brought in—but they recognised that the ideal might not be carried out with advantage in every industry. It was impossible to carry on a difficult business requiring initiative, courage, risk to be taken, the instant adaptation of means to ends, by means of a committee. Really good work of an original kind was always carried on by an individual. In his belief the ablest the committee, the more inefficient it would be. (Laughter.)

The true system was like the management by a cabinet of the institutions of a great Empire. The head of an office managed that office, but in questions of doubt or difficulty consulted the Prime Minister or the whole Cabinet, but it must be one man who did the thing, not the committee. There were great departments of public life where, owing to that not being sufficiently considered, the result was an enormous waste of brains and time and temper (laughter)—with an amazingly indifferent output.

Copartnership would not prevent that initiative which depended on men and transfer it to the incompetent hands of a committee. It could most effectively be carried out in the first instance in well established industries which had little of the speculative element.

We lost a great deal by talking as if the labour of a man was in itself an evil which became tolerable because he was paid for it. He did not say that labour was a pleasure, but, unless the work we did in life could be inherently interesting we had not got to the root of any social problem. The art of life was to make uninteresting parts into an interesting whole. No man's work was in itself of an exhilarating character. Sitting in the House of Commons and listening to speeches was not in itself exhilarating (laughter)—but that did not prevent work in the House of Commons from being extremely interesting.

ART AND WEALTH.

THE GREAT FORTUNE OF THE LATE SIR JOSEPH DUREN.

Sir Joseph Duren, who began life as a blacksmith, was the study of art as a hobby, and the famous Bond-street firm of Duren Brothers, and died last month, left estate valued at £540,409 gross, of which £486,675 is net personalty. Probate of his will has been granted. He left to five of the employees at the Old Bond-street establishment £100 each, and to three others £400 each.

In addition he left £100 for distribution in the discretion of his executors to any of his servants not included among these eight.

Lady Duren has the use for life of the house at Hampstead, and the effects there, and an annuity of £5,000.

Subject to numerous specific bequests to his children, relatives and intimate friends, the residue of his property is left amongst his children.

Sir Joseph left no sum for charitable purposes or public uses.

HAMBURG LETTER.

(WRITTEN FOR "THE HONGKONG DAILY PRESS.")

December 10th.

THE GERMAN CONSTITUTION.

The debate in the Reichstag on the proposals for the amendment of certain articles of the constitution of the empire to which the interpellations on the subject of the famous interview gave rise, took place last week and lasted two days. Much to the surprise of everyone, the Chancellor, Prince Billow, himself was not present, Herr von Bethmann-Hollweg being in attendance instead. The resolution moved by the Radical party was the only one that was clearly defined and in a practical form, and, as it gives the best idea of the general trend of thought, a short summary of it may prove of interest. It purports to supplement article 17 of the fundamental laws of the empire according to which the promulgation of acts of the Reichstag and of orders-in-council and imperial decrees rests with the Kaiser, such enactments having, however, to be countersigned by the Chancellor or his deputy who thereby assumes the full responsibility for them. To this the radicals desire to add several clauses providing for the extension of his responsibility to the conduct of the business of the State in general and to all private acts of the Kaiser bearing upon home and foreign politics, and for the bestowal of power on the Reichstag to bring in an act of impeachment against him and his deputy for the passing of which the vote of not less than two-thirds of the entire number of members shall be necessary. With the view of such a contingency, arising a special court to be instituted at Leipzig at the opening of every session of the Reichstag over which the president of the Supreme Court of Judicature is to preside. It is to be composed besides of twelve assessors, of which eight are to be appointed by the Reichstag and four by the Bundesrath; twelve substitutes to be nominated in a like manner. Both the assessors and their substitutes must be qualified to serve on juries and at least one half of them must have attained the rank of judges in the lower courts or else belong to the professional body of the legal faculty at one of the German universities. Members of the Bundesrath or the Reichstag are not eligible, nor persons excluded by the general act of procedure, by which and by the criminal procedure act the proceedings before the tribunal are to be regulated. The prosecuting officers to be appointed by the Reichstag, members of which are eligible for the office. The verdict to be one of acquittal or of dismissal from office with or without a pension. No appeal to lie to a higher court. A free pardon or a mitigation of the sentence not to be granted, unless three-fourths of the members of the Reichstag approve. Should proceedings against the Chancellor for crime or misdemeanor be pending in another court at the time, it shall be left to the discretion of the State court to suspend trial until the former have been concluded.

The Socialists go beyond this, demanding full parliamentary government, a responsible Imperial cabinet, instead of, as at present, a number of Secretaries of State under the Chancellor, a voice in the election of the latter and in the question of peace or war. The more Conservative group are more moderate in their proposals, but they all agree in desiring an extension of the Chancellor's responsibility to all personal acts and words of the Kaiser even in private intercourse. The necessity is further urged of the committee for foreign affairs meeting more regularly and taking a more active part in the conduct of business. It has also been suggested that the Reichstag, if not assembled, should be at once convened at the request of not less than one-third of its members and that the rules of procedure be so altered as to permit of motions being added to interpellations and of short questions, with or without previous notice, being put to be answered by the Chancellor or his deputy on the spot. All the parties that took part in the debate, with the exception of the Socialists, concur in deprecating Government by a parliamentary majority, their only object being to augment and strengthen the constitutional guarantees against personal rule. As a general understanding had been arrived at that recent events should not again be dragged into the debate, the proceedings were of a most dignified character, and, although the speeches were to the point and not lacking in determination, there were no ebullitions of temper. In the end the resolutions were one and all referred to the committee on procedure, which for the occasion is to be increased to 28. The extreme Conservatives were the only dissentients holding that the pledge supposed to have been given by the Kaiser to Prince Billow at their famous interview to refrain henceforth from all personal intervention in the affairs of State, was a sufficient guarantee for the future. It does not follow, however, that they will refuse to act on the committee.

THE POPULATION OF THE EMPIRE.

According to the *Hamburger Nachrichten*, the official returns show an increase in the population of the empire in 1907 of 882,625 resulting from a similar increase in the excess of births over deaths in that year. The increase in 1906 was 910,275, the falling off being accounted for almost entirely by the smaller number of births. The excess of births however remains absolutely as well as relatively greater than in almost any other country of Europe. The number of births, including still-born babies, reached 2,060,974 as compared with 2,064,739 in the previous year, or 23,765 less. To every thousand of the population there were 33.2 births against 34.1 in 1906 and 35.5 on an average for the last ten years. The number of deaths, including stillborn babies, amounted to 1,178,349 as compared with 1,174,464 in 1906 showing an increase of 3,885. The death-rate per thousand inhabitants came to 19 against 19.2 in 1906 and a mean of 21.01 for the last ten years.

The excess of births over deaths is recorded as being 14.2 against 14.9 in 1906, 13.2 in 1905, 14.5 in 1904, 13.9 in 1903 and 14.5 the average of the last ten years. These differences are chiefly due to fluctuations in the death-rate. The number of marriages has increased from 498,990 to 503,964 but in proportion to the population a slight falling off has to be reported, i.e., from 8.16 per cent to 8.12 per cent. The proportion of illegitimate births which for some time had declined has again increased during the last few years, having been 8.7 per cent in 1907, 8.5 per cent in 1906 and 1905, 8.4 per cent in 1904 and 8.3 per cent in 1903.

THE CHINAMAN AT HOME.

BY A BRITISH CONSUL.

Mr. H. A. Little, the British Consul at Ichang, has managed to write a report which has received in the Home papers far more attention than consular reports usually get. He gives in his report not merely the statistics of trade, but an idea of the life lived by the people of the country. The Consul writes on rents, incomes, salaries and wages, hours of labour, dwellings, furniture, dress, food and cost of living, fuel, and general conditions of life at the port. Following is some of the information imparted:—

The land is generally still held in small holdings of from half an acre to five or six acres, at a rent of about £2.50 an acre, paid sometimes in kind, and the entire set of implements can be bought for about 30s. There are at Ichang no lawyers, or notaries, or architects, or veterinary surgeons. The so-called doctors are about twenty in number, two or three of them earning from £7 to £11 per month, but the majority being content with much less—sometimes with about 13s. 6d. per month, with food, and the artisans earn from 5s. 6d. to 1d. a day, with food. The rents of dwellings range from 1s. 6d. per month for a labourer's cottage, to £3 10s. per month for a merchant's house of some 25 or 30 rooms.

Food is of the simplest description, fish and meat being little eaten; milk, butter, and bread not at all, and rice and vegetables forming the staple diet. The expenditure on food ranges from about 2s. to 3s. per month in the case of the working class, to about 25s. to 30s. in the case of the well-to-do. There are no roads, no carts or carriages, no municipal government, no public lighting of the streets, no police, no fire brigade, no shops as we know them, no laundresses, no trams or railways, no libraries or reading rooms, no places of amusement—nothing, in fact, which we associate with the idea of a modern town. There is a hospital service maintained on account of the danger of the Yangtze river, which serves about 1,000 lives every year, consisting of from 20 to 60 performers, who visit house, etc. and charge from £1 to £1 10s. per day. There are also about 19 inns, where the usual charge is about 1s. a day, including food, but no bedding is provided. Banking is commonly transacted through cash shops, which issue their own notes, and advance money on 12 to 15 per cent interest per annum, and there are two pawnshops, which charge about 3d. per 1s. 6d. per month.

Native houses are, as a rule, very bare, and the general run of middle-class people do not spend more than a few hundred taels (say 250) on furnishing. A rich man may, however, spend as much as £1,000 to £1,250. A taste is growing up for foreign articles of furniture, especially beds. The richest man in Ichang is contemplating the erection and furnishing of a mansion in foreign style.

On marriage a woman of the upper class spends several thousands of taels on her wardrobe, but subsequently only a few tens every year. In Ichang there are 15 or 20 persons of this position, who are the only ones who may be worth £250 to £375. A single dress may cost from £25 to £27, for furs to £3 15s., or £5 for silk or satin, the price for good everyday clothes being from £1 5s. to £2 10s. Strange to say, men are more extravagant in dress than women. Chinese ladies often spend a great deal of money on trousseaux and layettes; has any foreigner ever tried to do business in this line? The price of a suit of summer clothes for a labouring man is 2s. 4d. to 3s., and he requires two suits a year. Waddlers' winter clothes cost 4s. 8d. to 6s. 2d., but with last two or three years. The lower classes, mostly go bare footed; the ordinary shoes, which are generally sold with cotton cloths, cost about 1s. 6d. per pair.

A curious custom is observed at Ichang in the seventh moon of suspending at night a burning rushlight on the top of a high pole up at the front door of the houses. It seems that many centuries ago a neighbouring State threatened to burn the town, but the attacking army was frightened away by the inhabitants burning as many lights as possible in the houses, and thus giving the appearance of the presence of a large force. The custom commemorates this event.

It is perhaps not generally known that the Dragon Boat Festival, now observed all over the empire, originated in connection with an occurrence in this district. Some 20 centuries ago a statesman of the kingdom of Chu, which then occupied this region, was dismissed by his master, and in despair drowned himself in the Tung-tung Lake. Being a popular figure, many boats put off to rescue him, each striving to reach the spot first. The festival, which is a sort of boat race, is intended to recall this incident.

PEKIN CAPITAL SCHEME.

It was known, of course, that some discussion as to a possible rearrangement of the Peking Syndicate's capital had taken place in London at a meeting of influential shareholders presided over by Mr. Carl Meyer, and the Paris correspondent of the *Financial News* now provides what he definitely states to be the details of a scheme which has been suggested. The following are the details in question:—A Bill is to be introduced into Parliament next session for the reorganization of the company. This new company will have a capital of £1,540,000, 3,080,000 shares of 10s. each, the necessary number to be divided among existing interests in this way:—

11 new shares for 10 Shanshi.....1,323,104
18 new shares for 1 Ordinary.....718,200
225 new shares for 1 Deferred.....450,000
It is further proposed to issue sinking fund certificates to the amount of £1,222,222, which will be a first charge on the assets of the syndicate in case of liquidation. Ten per cent of the profits of each year will be put aside for redemption of these certificates. When the profits in any one year amount to a sum more than sufficient to pay a dividend of 10 per cent—that is, 1s. per share—half of the surplus will be devoted to the redemption of the certificates. Whether this scheme is to be definitely submitted or not, we are not, however, in a position to say.

OLLA PODRIDA.

WHERE LONDONERS FEEL.

A correspondent of the *Times*, who has been travelling in the United States and Canada, says he heard the same thing everywhere—the Englishman who succeeds is hardly ever a Londoner; the Englishman who fails completely is almost always a Londoner. The correspondent visited Mr. Edison at his laboratory in New Jersey. "Say, what's the matter with your people over there?" he exclaimed. "Here I've had to close down my phonograph factory in England—what's the cause and the place? I've forgotten; somewhere near London. All the others in Europe paying, but we couldn't make that one pay. We got good work out of the French and the Belgians and the Germans and Austrians, but the English—no good. Belgians 85 per cent, English 30 per cent." Mr. Edison meant ratio of productive capacity. He went on: "Mind, I'm not speaking of the English mechanic. He's all right; none better in the world. I'm talking of the common labourer—can you pick up on the streets. What is it? Do much booze? Or general deterioration? Or what?"

A MUCH TRAVELED LADY.
Mrs. Taft, we learn, speaks French with a faultless accent, and on one occasion M. Jusseland, the French Ambassador in Washington, complimented her by observing, "Madame, when I heard you speak I imagined that I was in France." It was Mrs. Taft who first suggested to her husband that he should become a Presidential candidate. They have been married for four and twenty years. Mrs. Taft, we learn from a Paris contemporary, is the most travelled lady who has ever graced the White House. Her honeymoon was spent in Europe. She accompanied her husband to the Philippines, was received by the Emperor and Empress of Japan, and has been the guest of the late Empress Dowager of China.

WOMAN RESEMBLING STOVE-PIPES.
The revolution that has been created in woman's dress as the result of the Directorate craze is producing some curious consequences. The dress designers of the moment, after having brought about what they describe as "the straight line" in front, have now directed attention to the back portion of fashionable attire, and the decree has gone forth that "the straight line" both front and back, is to prevail this winter. The result (the *Mail* says) is to create an entirely new-shaped human being, already nicknamed "La Femme Tube," or "the tube woman," because the few women seen about so far in the very latest style of Directorate dress resemble walking stove-pipes. The new figure requires the wearing of corsets of extraordinary length, made of rubber or elastic tissue and whalebone, which reach nearly to the knees.

WRITING BY TELEPHONE.
For some time past a syndicate has been developing an apparatus called a "teletewriter" for electrically reproducing at a distance hand-writing, drawings, &c., the sender merely writing what he has to say with a pencil on a piece of paper in the transmitting instrument, when a facsimile reproduction is instantly reproduced on the receiver. A number of business firms have already adopted the machine for use within their own premises or over private telephone wires, but the syndicate now proposes to enlarge the sphere of its operations by the agency of a public company. In the early part of last year the Postmaster-General granted it a licence apparently comparable to that possessed by the National Telephone Company, which comes to an end in 1911. This licence permits its holders to establish special telewriter exchanges throughout Great Britain and elsewhere, to which will be able to communicate with each other in writing; and it further compels the telewriter exchange to give facilities for a telegraphic message before or after the written message, but related or supplementary to it. The Post Office will provide the requisite lines upon rental terms and will also receive royalties. It follows that the absorption of the National Telephone Company's business by the Post Office at the end of 1911 will not mean, as has hitherto been generally supposed, that the public telewriter business of the country will be in the hands of the State after that date, since the holders of this telewriter licence will be able to supply the public with telephones, in conjunction, however, with apparatus for the transmission of written characters. It is stated that the actual "teletewriter" machine employed was invented, developed, and made in London, but, of course, other machines for the same purpose, and depending on much the same principles, though doubtless with differences in the details of construction, have already been devised in America. An example of the machine is shown in the accompanying illustration. The motion of the pen in writing is resolved into two component motions; each of these is used to move a contact-piece over a rheostat by means of which two electric currents, varying in strength according to the position of the pen, are sent over two circuits to the receiver, where they actuate two levers, the motions of which, being combined, cause the pen to reproduce the motion of the pen of the transmitter.

LITTLE MILLIONAIRE'S BIRTHDAY.
CHEQUES.

Master Willie Vanderbilt, aged seven, celebrated last month the saddest birthday of his life, for, a New York correspondent says, he received no cheque from his father for a million dollars (£200,000). The boy is the only son of Mr. Alfred G. Vanderbilt, whose wife secured a divorce several months ago. On every one of his previous birthdays his father has presented him with a million dollars, but this year Mr. Vanderbilt was away motoring in the West, and did not add a seventh to the millions that have gone before. Instead the boy received a infant's motor-car.

DEPRIVATION OF A LOVE AFFAIR.

A romance arising out of the Duke of the Abruzzi's visits to America to see Miss Katherine Elkins has been revealed by the arrival of Lieutenant Salvatore Casano, the Italian navy, at Boston, on the liner *Romania*. Lieutenant Casano is engaged to Miss June Leland, a beautiful girl, who is a member of a prominent Boston family. During the Duke of the Abruzzi's last visit to America, Lieutenant Casano accompanied him as aide-de-camp. While the Duke was courting Miss Elkins, the Lieutenant courted Miss Leland. The Lieutenant, who is not English, and Miss Leland, an Italian, but, curiously enough, both of them were conversant with Japanese, and the first steps of the courtship were conducted in this language. Afterwards Miss Leland taught her lover English.

CAMBRIDGE UNDERGRADUATE AND THE "MERRY WIDOW."

Not since the famous "Sultan of Zanzibar" hoax (when some undergraduates misled the authorities by getting one of their number to masquerade as the Sultan) have Cambridge undergraduates perpetrated so successful a joke as during the run of the "Merry Widow" at Cambridge Theatre. There is a rule in existence that undergraduates shall not engage a box at the theatre unless they be accompanied by a lady, who must be a relative, and this rule four undergraduates set themselves to break. One night the "Merry Widow" divided the attention of the audience with a beautiful being who sat in the middle of box C. with three undergraduates.

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[36]

ates dancing attendance upon her, supplying her with chocolates, fanning her when the air became oppressive, and competing for her smiles in the most approved fashion. The fair stranger was faultlessly gowned in white satin shimmering with sequins, and had a beautiful head of hair. There was much speculation as to who the beautiful stranger could be, and undergraduates in the stalls cast many envious glances up towards box C. Next day the secret was known. The distinguished "lady" was an undergraduate who, with three companions, had thus succeeded in breaking the Varsity rule, but so cleverly that none of the authorities dream of punishing them. The "fair one's" costume was designed by a well-known West-end Court dressmaker, while beautiful head of hair was by Willie Jackson, who journeyed to Cambridge specially to direct the final touching-up. Before the performance the party were photographed; they dined at a fashionable restaurant and then drove to the theatre in a taxi-cab. In the vestibule of the theatre they encountered the managing director, who has a keen eye for undergraduate pranks. So completely successful was the make-up, however, that he was deceived, and that evening was remarkable for the clever acting on both sides of the curtain.

SUGGESTED AMERICAN FLOATING EXHIBITION.

FOR THE FAR EAST.

Consul Jacob E. Conner, of Saigon, believes that a floating exhibition of American export products would be an excellent advertising scheme in the Orient. He says:—

"Some of our enterprising Western cities have, at various times, in the interest of their real estate and commercial development, equipped railway cars with an elaborate exhibition of their products and resources and dispatched them to distant parts of the country as advertising ventures. As this has been frequently repeated it is proposed that the advertising paid. Now, in the same manner a ship could be chartered and equipped with a goodly exhibition of American produce and manufactures and could be used in some parts of the world with most gratifying results. Suppose that it be designed for a particular region, such as the Oriental Tropics, and the exhibition selected accordingly. Its itinerary need not last too long, when it could return for another exhibit. The cargo could be as varied as the products of the exhibitors. It could be designed with a view to taking orders, to taking large orders, perhaps to be filled by cable. Its itinerary could be designed long enough in advance to lay the consular service under contribution for much valuable information. For instance, business directories, subscription lists, local maps, and trips to nearby inland points could all be arranged for in advance."

AN OCCULT SECT.

It has taken the High court of Bombay nearly two years to decide that a Parsi, like the Post, must be born and cannot be made. So that a convert to Zoroastrianism may wear the very useful and ornamental hat of the Parsis and assume the name of Hingimjee Soorkia Jamsap but he cannot be permitted to enter the precincts of the Sacred Fire Temple, neither to participate in the benefits of the numerous Charity funds (amounting to close upon three quarters of a crore of Rupees) under the control of the Panchayet while living nor to enjoy the privilege of being laid out on a Tower of Silence, to be devoured by vultures, when dead—Fanatism for ever!!!

WEATHER REPORT.

The Hongkong Observatory yesterday issued the following report:—

On the 5th at 12.05 p.m.—The barometer has risen at the stations around the Sea of Japan, and fallen over the E. coast of China and the S. Loochoos.

The depression lying over Japan yesterday has moved into the Pacific. Another one appears to be developing over the Eastern Sea. Pressure remains considerably below the normal at all stations. It is highest over N. China.

Light or moderate monsoon may be expected in the Formosa Channel and the China Sea. Hongkong rainfall for the 24 hours ending at 10 a.m. to-day, 0.10 inches.

The forecast for the 24 hours ending at noon to-day is as follows:—

Hongkong & Neighbourhood. (N.E. winds, light or mod'te.
Formosa Channel. (N.E. winds, light or mod'te.
South coast of China between (Same as No. 1.
Hongkong and Loochoos. (Same as No. 1.
South coast of China between (Same as No. 1.
Hongkong and Loochoos. (Same as No. 1.
(N.E. winds, moderate; cloudy, drizzling rain.

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NEW ADVERTISEMENTS

NOTICE.

HONGKONG FOOTBALL CHALLENGE SHIELD COMPETITION.

A MEETING will be held to draw the Teams and to deal with the General Business in connection with the above on FRIDAY, the 6th inst., at the Office of Messrs. S. J. DAVID & Co., Prince's Buildings. Representatives of Competing Teams are requested to attend at 5.30 p.m.

A. GREGORY,
Hon. Secretary.

Care of JARDINE, MATHESON & Co., Ltd.
Hongkong, 6th January, 1909. [146]

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Hongkong, 6th January, 1909. [147]

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Fantasia (two pianos) ... Gullmatt
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Choral Fantasia ... Vincent
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Hongkong, 6th January, 1909. [148]

"GLEN" LINE OF STEAMERS.

FOR GENOA, LONDON AND ANTWERP.

THE Steamship

"GLENAYON."

Captain Wolfenden will be despatched as above on MONDAY the 25th January, 1909.

For Freight apply to

MCGREGOR BROS. & GOW.

Hongkong, 5th January, 1909 [145]

THE BANK LINE, LIMITED.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

STEAMSHIP "INVERICK,"
FROM TACOMA, VICTORIA, YOKOHAMA, KOBE, MOJI AND MANILA.

THE above Steamer having arrived, Consignees of Cargo are hereby requested to send in their Bills of Lading for countersignature and to take immediate delivery of their Goods from alongside.

Cargo impeding the discharge of the Vessel will be landed and stored at Consignees' risk and expense.

No Fire Insurance will be effected by us in any case whatever.

DODWELL & Co., Ltd., Agents.

Hongkong, 5th January, 1909. [8]

DR. M. H. CHAUN.

THE latest Method of the AMERICAN SYSTEM OF DENTISTRY.
33, QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL.
From the University of Pennsylvania, U.S.A.
Hongkong, 17th April, 1907. [1261]

SIEN TING

SURGEON DENTIST.

No. 10, D'AGUIAR STREET.

TERMS VERY MODERATE.

Consultation Free.

Hongkong, 21st September, 1905. [1327]

FOR SALE A Quantity of NETTING

FOR TENNIS COURTS, etc., at less than half cost.

TABLE BILLIARD SETS, SLATE BEDS, from \$40.00. May be seen by appointment.

CHINA EXPRESS CO., 3, DUNDRELL STREET.

Hongkong, 28th November, 1908. [50]

A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

IN COMMEMORATION WE WILL GIVE AWAY TO EVERY PURCHASER SOME ARTICLE OF EXCEPTIONAL VALUE.

COME ONE COME ALL!

HOOSAIN-ALI & Co.,

No. 14, Queen's Road Central.

Hongkong, 1st January, 1909. [41]

SINGON & CO.

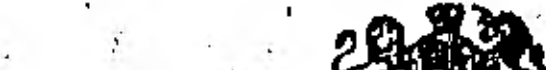
IRON, STEEL, METAL AND HARDWARE MERCHANTS. Wholesale and Retail Ironmongers. Pig Iron and Foundry Castings. General Storekeepers and Shipchangers. Nos. 35 & 37, HING LOONG STREET, (2nd Street, west of Central Market) Telephone No. 515. [650]

INTIMATIONS

NOTICE.

WE the Undersigned hereby beg to inform the Public that before any Agreement, Contract, Delivery Order, Receipt or other Important Document in connection with our Business can be Valid it must be Signed by Mr. Ho Jui and chopped with the chop of our Firm.

TONG SHING, Washermen,
458, West Point, Hongkong.
Hongkong, 30th December, 1908. [1708]



COLONIAL SECRETARY'S DEPT.

IT IS HEREBY NOTIFIED that information has been received from the NAVAL AUTHORITIES to the effect that His Majesty's Surveying Ship "MERLIN" and "WATERWITCH" at present at "East Dock Buoy" and "5A" Buoy respectively are engaged in taking observations of Tidal Stream off the entrance to the New Admiralty Dry Dock.

Masters of Craft and Coxswains of Launches should keep clear of these vessels and proceed at slow speed when passing, as the wash set up by them is liable to interfere with correct observations.

F. H. MAY,
Colonial Secretary.
Hongkong, 31st December, 1908. [143]



HARBOUR MASTER'S DEPARTMENT.

IT IS HEREBY NOTIFIED that information has been received from the MILITARY AUTHORITIES that GUN PRACTICE will be carried out as under:—

From 4th to 23rd January, 1909—
From Customs Pass and Chin Lan Chu over the area Kauling Peak, Tates Cairn, Buffalo Hill, Razor Hill and High Junk Peak, at ranges up to 10,000 yards, commencing at 10 A.M. daily, and finishing at 4 P.M.

If the weather is unfavourable on any of the above dates, practice will take place on the following day.

All ships, junks and other vessels are to keep clear of the ranges.

BASIL TAYLOR, Commander, R.N., Harbour Master, &c.

Hongkong, 4th January, 1909. [144]

GRAND PRODUCTION OF

"THE SILVER KING"

BY THE

KOWLOON DOCK A.D.C.

ON SATURDAY AND MONDAY,

the 9th and 11th JANUARY, 1909, at KOWLOON DOCK, at 8.30 P.M.

Lunches will leave Blake Pier at 8 P.M. returning after performance.

Prices of Admission: \$1, Juveniles 50 cents, Soldiers and Sailors in uniform 50 cents.

J. C. OWEN, Secretary.

Kowloon, 4th January, 1909. [140]

FRENCH LESSONS.

FRENCH TAUGHT entirely by Conversation and without translation by a Frenchman (a Teacher in Government Schools) and ENGLISH LESSONS by an English Lady.

Apply by letter to—B. R., Care of "Daily Press" Office.

Hongkong, 13th November, 1906. [124]

SEASONABLE GIFTS

CAMERAS

OF LATEST AND UP-TO-DATE STYLE.

Inspection cordially invited.

A TACK & CO.

26, DES VŒUX ROAD, CENTRAL.

Hongkong, 27th November, 1908. [37]

A LING & CO.

19, QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL.

FURNITURE AND PHOTO GOODS STORE.

Photographic Goods of every Description in Stock.

Developing and Printing Undertaken.

Hongkong, 31st July, 1907. [1448]

NEW CARTRIDGES.

BY popular English Manufacturers. In all Bores and Sizes.

SMOKELESS POWDERS and CHILLED SHOTS. From No. 10 to .588S. at 86, 87 and 87.50 per 100. SPORTING REQUISITES and AIR GUNS in Variety.

Inspection Invited.

WM. SCHMIDT & Co.

Hongkong, 26th October, 1905. [1445]

AUTOMATIC BROWNING

POCKET PISTOLS.

CALIBRE 7.65 mm.

With CHAMBER for 3 CARTRIDGES

FIRING 8 SHOTS in 2 SECONDS.

STEMSEN & Co. Agents.

Hongkong, 6th March, 1907. [47]

AUTOMATIC MAUSER

PISTOLS.

CALIBRE 7.65 mm.

With CHAMBER for 10 CARTRIDGES

FIRING 10 SHOTS in 2 SECONDS.

CARLOWITZ & Co. Agents.

Hongkong, 13th March, 1907. [535]

NOTICE TO KOWLOON RESIDENTS.

EXTRA COPIES of Daily Press are on sale daily at the following stores:—

KOWLOON BOOK STALL, Ferry Wharf

Messrs. H. BUTTONE & SONS, Kowloon Store, No. 36, Elgin Road.

Messrs. HUNG CHEONG, Elgin Road.

Mr. AH YAU, Hongkong Ferry Wharf Stall

NOTICES OF FIRMS

NOTICE.

MR. ERNST ARNDT, having retired from our Employment, CEASES to Sign our Firm per Procuration from this Date.

ARNHOLD, KARBURG & Co.
Hongkong, 1st January, 1909. [128]

NOTICE.

THE Interest and Responsibility of Mr. ADOLF CARY SCHOMBURG and Mr. WILHELM WIEBERHOLD in our Firm CEASES on the 31st December, 1908.

Mr. CARL ROBERT LENZMANN has been Admitted a partner in our Firm from this Date.

CARLOWITZ & Co.
China, Japan, Hongkong, 1st January, 1909.
Hamburg, New York. [131]

NOTICE.

THE Interest and Responsibility in our Firm of our late Mr. CARL GEORGE RICHARD BRODERSEN CEASES upon his death, which took place at Shanghai on the 2nd October last.

Mr. HANS AUGUST SIEBS and Mr. EUGEN SIEBERT have this Day been Admitted as Partners in our Firm.

Shanghai, Hongkong & China, 1st January, 1909. [132]

COMMERCIAL UNION ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

MR. PERCY TESTER has been appointed LOCAL MANAGER of the above Company's HONGKONG BRANCH from this Date.

W. H. TRENCHARD DAVIS, Manager for China.
Shanghai, 1st January, 1909. [133]

AUCTION

PUBLIC AUCTION.

NEW KOWLOON FARM, LOT No. 2 and NEW KOWLOON INLAND, LOT No. 6, situated at Tai Paz Chong, Kowloon Tsai, having a total area of 102.363 Square Feet and held under Crown Leases for the residue of terms of 75 years (with a right of renewal) at a total annual Crown Rent of \$88 will be sold in one lot by order of the Mortgagees, TO-MORROW (THURSDAY) the 7th Jan. 1909, at 12 o'clock (Noon) at Mr. Geo. P. LAMMEBT'S Sales Rooms, Duddell Street, Subject to a reserved price of \$2,000.

For particulars apply to the Auctioneer, or to Mr. H. K. HOLMES, Solicitor for the Vendor, 54, Queen's Road Central.

Hongkong, 31st December, 1908. [118]

PHILATELIC NOVELTY

NEW YEAR PRESENTS.

Bags of used Postage Stamps.

Containing:

All Asiatic Stamps. All Chinese Stamps.

4,000 for \$8.00 4,000 for \$4.50

3,000 " 7.00 3,000 " 3.50

2,000 " 5.00 2,000 " 2.50

700 " 2.00 1,000 " 1.50

300 " 1.00 500 " 1.00

Also Stamps in Packets and Sets at prices to suit everybody.

VIEW POSTCARDS, ALBUMS, HINGES, &c., &c.

Inspection invited. GRAÇA & Co.

No. 27, Des Vœux Road.

DAVID CORSAIR & SON'S

MERCHANT NAVY

NAVY BOILED

LONG FLAX

RELIANCE CROWN

TARPAULING

ARNHOLD, KARBURG & CO.

Sole Agents.

COLD STORAGE.

THE HONGKONG ICE COMPANY, LTD., have now 40,000 Cubic Feet of Cold Storage available at EAST POINT. Stores will be Open at 10 A.M. and 4 P.M. daily, Sunday excepted, to receive and deliver perishable goods.

G. K. HAXTON, Manager.

Hongkong, 1st April, 1908. [48]

SANG MOW.

RATTAN AND GRASS FURNITURE MAKER.

CHAIRS, TABLES, SETTEES & LONG CHAIRS.

BAMBOO BLINDS, MATTINGS in all colours on Sale.

All Orders receive Prompt attention.

59A, QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL, HONGKONG.

Hongkong, 20th February, 1908. [401]

TO LET.

ROOMS in HOTEL MANSIONS, suitable for Offices or Chambers.

Apply to—HENRY HUMPHREYS, Alexandra Buildings.

Hongkong, 11th November, 1908. [104]

TO LET.

GODOWN, No. 5A, DUNDRELL STREET.

Apply to—THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT & AGENCY CO., LTD.

Hongkong, 1st January, 1909. [98]

TO LET.

GODOWN in Wanchai 100 by 50, \$85 per month; also open air space adjoining 125 by 100.

Apply to—Box 1012, Care of "Daily Press" Office.

Hongkong, 11th December, 1908. [113]

TO LET.

OFFICES and ROOMS on the 1st and 2nd Floors of No. 14, Des Vœux Road Central (formerly occupied by Messrs. SHEWAN TOMES & Co.)

Apply to—THE COMPADORE DEPARTMENT, E. D. SASSON & Co., Queen's Road Central.

Hongkong, 10th June, 1908. [105]

TO LET

TO LET.

COAL YARD. Immediate Possession. A PORTION of the COMPOUND of Marine Lot, No. 42, Wanchai, Praya East. Apply to—N. MODY & CO., Hongkong, 23rd July, 1908. [107]

TO LET.

"FUNG-SHUI," 121, PLANTATION ROAD THE PEAK. This House which is admirably situated and within easy distance of the tram, is fully furnished, and contains Drawing and Dining Rooms, Three Large and One Small Bedrooms, Dressing and Bath Rooms, Pantry, Kitchen and Laundry, Servants' Quarters, Poultry House, Large Vegetable Garden (planted with English seeds) Flower Garden and Lawn.

For further particulars apply to—JOHNSON, STOKES & MASTER, Solicitors, 8, Des Vœux Road Central.

Hongkong, 6th November, 1908. [110]

TO LET.

GODOWN, No. 97, PRAYA EAST. Apply to—CHATER & MODY, Victoria Buildings.

Hongkong, 19th October, 1908. [109]

TO LET.

A HOUSE in Wong Nei Chong Road. A HOUSE in RYON TERRACE. No. 10, DES VŒUX ROAD CENTRAL, 1st floor.

"HATHERLEIGH," Conduit Road. OFFICES in YORK BUILDING. GODOWNS in PRAYA EAST, BLUE BUILDINGS and No. 16B, Des Vœux Road next to the HONGKONG HOTEL.

FLATS in MORRISON TERRACE. Apply to—THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT & AGENCY CO., LTD.

Hongkong, 1st January, 1909. [97]

TO LET.

ONE OFFICE ROOM, Third Floor, New Praya 2, Opposite Murray Pier. Apply to—SCHULDT & CO.

Hongkong, 26th July, 1908. [106]

TO LET.

NOS. 2 & 3, BEACONSFIELD ARCADE, facing the Parade Ground. A 5-ROOMED HOUSE Furnished or Unfurnished at the Peak.

No. 2, CAMERON VILLAS Furnished 61 Peak, from end of March, 1909.

No. 55, ELGIN TERRACE. BEACONSFIELD ARCADE, Fine Offices and Dwelling Rooms.

No. 15, QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL, First & Top Floors (over Caldwell MacGregor). OFFICES in Queen's Road Central.

BELLIS TERRACE HOUSES, ROBINSON ROAD. A GODOWN in Duddell Street.

Apply to—LINSTEAD & DAVIS, 3rd Floor, Alexandra Buildings.

Hongkong, 5th January, 1909. [100]

TO LET.

No. 52, CAINE ROAD. Apply to—SAM WANG CO., LTD., 81, Queen's Road Central.

Hongkong, 30th September, 1908. [101]

TO LET.

FROM 1st MAY. KOWLOON MARINE LOT 48, Yau Ma Tei, Area 85,200 square feet and with 255 feet Sea Frontage. Especially suited for Storage of Coal, Timber, &c.

Apply to—HUMPHREYS ESTATE AND FINANCE CO., LTD.

Hongkong, 18th January, 1908. [103]

TO LET.

A HOUSE in MOUNTAIN VIEW, Furnished for Summer Months. In Good Order. Cheap Rent. Apply to—LINSTEAD & DAVIS.

Hong

